

Development of Indiana's State Forests: Ferdinand State Forest and Greene-Sullivan State Forest

An Honors Thesis (HONR 499)

by

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Signed

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Abstract

The twentieth century saw the establishment of national and state parks as well as national and state forests in order to conserve and preserve the United States' natural resources and natural beauty. Currently, the state of Indiana manages twelve state forests through the Department of Natural Resources. I examine Ferdinand State Forest and Greene-Sullivan State Forest through their histories, development, and characteristics and also compare their features.

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Ferdinand State Forest

Early History

Ferdinand State Forest, located in Dubois County, Indiana, currently resides on 7,657 acres. Originally, members of the Delaware tribe had inhabited the area of Ferdinand, Indiana. In the late 1830s, Ferdinand was settled by German-speaking missionaries who built a large parish, the St. Meinrad Archabbey, around which the town was centered.¹ The settlers named their new area Ferdinand after Ferdinand, the Emperor of Austria (1793-1875). For the German-speaking inhabitants, the name *Ferdinand* also meant "courageous traveler," and thus more immigrants and other settlers journeyed to Ferdinand. Therefore, the town grew as the parish became more established. The growing Ferdinand community was in need of an area for sporting and recreational activities.

Nearly 100 years after the town of Ferdinand's establishment, the Ferdinand Fish and Game Conservation Club was created in February of 1933.² The club had a focus on reforestation so that nearby forests could be useful for timber harvests. The timber harvests would generate revenue and put more money towards continually reforesting the area. The club also wanted to create a recreational area for sportsmen for hunting and fishing. New state fish and game laws were put into place in March of 1933.³ These laws governed sportsmen in the area and were discussed at the conservation club meetings so members would be lawful sportsmen because they would be aware of hunting and fishing seasons and areas so that wildlife populations would not be diminished to local extinction. The club's meetings were recorded and noted in *The Ferdinand News*. During one well-

attended meeting, the protection of pheasants newly introduced to the area was discussed.⁴ The purpose of this discussion was to encourage Ferdinand residents to kill hawks, crows, and owls. By killing these predators, the pheasant population would be able to flourish and in turn could be more readily available for hunting season. Another benefit of killing predatory birds was the protection of local chicken coops.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), a conservation group purchased the forest's land in 1933 for hunting and then in 1934, the group gave the land to the Indiana Department of Conservation.⁵ The forest's history from the IDNR is very vague, as it does not name a specific conservation group that may have established the forest's lands. However, according to articles found from *The Ferdinand News*, a conservation club did not establish the state forest, but the Ferdinand Fish and Game Conservation Club did support the state forest's founding as an area for preservation of forests and for future timber harvests.⁶ A discrepancy exists between the IDNR website for Ferdinand State Forest and articles from *The Ferdinand News*. Regardless of what group founded the state forest, it was a much-needed locale for the community of Ferdinand.

Shaping Ferdinand State Forest

In December of 1933, rumors began to circulate in Ferdinand about the potential for a state park to come to the area.⁷ The park could provide a much-needed area for Ferdinand residents to recreate and enjoy one another's company as well as fish and hunt game animals. This area was filled with wildlife and was an

ideal location to enjoy being outdoors. A couple of weeks later, George Theyson and Guy Purcell from Evansville, visitors to the Ferdinand area, went on a hunting trip with the Ferdinand Fish and Game Club on Mr. Henry Tretter's farm. The two visitors thought that the scenery was so beautiful and insisted that a park should be constructed there. They then contacted Kenneth Kunkel, director of the Indiana Department of Conservation, and the next day Tretter's land was revisited by Theyson, Purcell, and Kunkel. Kunkel immediately approved the forest project after one of the men in the hunting party informally surveyed the land. Tretter donated 100 acres of his land to start the forest because the men were so impressed with his property.⁸ Once a more formal land survey was conducted, the plans for the state forest became public knowledge.

By February of 1934, the formation of the forest was already progressing.⁹ The community of Ferdinand was very supportive of the project. Many residents gave monetary donations as well as deeded land to the state. A *Ferdinand News* article shows that the land for Ferdinand State Forest was given to the state by various landowners via deeds or sales in 1934.¹⁰ There were many land donors who very extremely generous with their contributions and willingness to provide land to the state in order for the establishment of the state forest. Most notably, Joseph Leinbach sold 42 acres, Herman Diek sold 265 acres, and F.J. Seng donated 404 acres.¹¹ Shortly after the initial deeds were announced, Mrs. Diek, who with her husband sold 265 acres to the state forest, died suddenly in June of 1934. The Diek's contribution was one of the largest of the initial provisions of land. It was noted that the Diek's generous addition, even though Mrs. Diek would not see the

forest completed, would be well remembered and acknowledged by all who visited.¹²

These initial land acquisitions were important supplements to Mr. Tretter's farmland. An issue of *The Ferdinand News* provides a more extensive list of the individuals and families that donated land or money to the forest for a total of 1000 acres of land given.¹³ This total, however, fell short of the desired size of the state forest. The hope was that the forest would have approximately 2000 acres at completion.¹⁴ The citizens of Ferdinand were donating whatever they could to make their state forest a reality.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Ferdinand

Once the land for Ferdinand State Forest was acquired, it was time to begin work on making the forest accessible as a destination of interest for community members. The Civilian Conservation Corps was crucial to create jobs and provide hard-workers to aid in the establishment of the forest. In May of 1934, the CCC camp from nearby Jasper, Indiana, ECW camp 63 PE, moved to Ferdinand and became camp S-76 in July of 1934.¹⁵ The CCC was a part of the New Deal which was a program created by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The CCC created much-needed jobs for young men around the country so that they could earn a living during the Great Depression. The camp's men built dirt roads and man-made bodies of water for the park.¹⁶ The roads were essential for visitors to access the various regions of the forest and for the workers to progress in their development of the recreational facilities of the forest. Perhaps some of the most important facilities that these men created were the bodies of water. The workers from the CCC camp at Ferdinand

were responsible for building Lake Ferdinand, which is still used for recreation and for replanting many areas of the forest to prevent erosion.¹⁷ With the development of roads and man-made lakes, reforestation of the area was a critical component of the project. Development of the forest continued, with the CCC building gravel roads through the forest and adding structures such as a service building and picnic areas for the forest's managers and visitors.¹⁸ The original landscape of the forest's area was forever changed due to the dedicated workforce that the CCC provided. Their hard work of constructing lakes, roads, buildings, and shelters allowed visitors to Ferdinand State Forest to access a good portion of the property.

Due to the multiple phases of the state forest project with the CCC, the men continued to work in and live on the forest's property. On February 12, 1936, a fire occurred in one of the barracks of the CCC. Thankfully, the fire did not spread to the forest or cause any fatalities, however it did destroy the barrack and all of the personal belongings of the camp's men that were housed there.¹⁹ While the CCC camp at Ferdinand State Forest seemed to be a positive addition to the area, it was also linked to statewide sanitation changes in the CCC camps. During September of 1935, the camp in Ferdinand was found to be the source of an outbreak of cholera in local hogs due to a farmer taking trash from the camp to feed his hogs. At this point in history, taking trash for hog feed was an acceptable procedure. This cholera outbreak sparked a statewide cleanup of trash in CCC camps as well as increased sanitary precautions at the camps.²⁰ The development of sanitation techniques in the CCC camps was forward thinking at the time as ways to prevent diseases. The CCC camp would not remain in the park for long, however.

Years of Development and Expansion

While work on the development of the forest's facilities continued through the 1930's, another phase of development for the state forest occurred in January of 1935. Indiana's Department of Forestry began surveying the land of Ferdinand State Forest to determine the types of trees, shrubs, and soil present.²¹ This type of cataloging is a typical land management practice for state forests and parks.

Furthermore, the survey would likely have aided in future timber sales. Curiously, during the time from when the forest was established up until mid-1935, the forest was being called a state park in the local newspaper.²² It took several years after the forest's establishment for it to be called Ferdinand State Forest, perhaps because the public was not aware of the distinction between state parks and state forests. Like many state forests, it was necessary to protect the property.

Therefore, a fire tower was also built in 1935, although it is unknown who built it.²³ The tower allowed for forest employees to detect any fires in the area and to alert the proper authorities. No major forest fires were ever reported in Ferdinand State Forest's early history.

As work continued in the state forest, another phase of development began in 1936. In order for the forest to have fishing as part of its recreational potential, it was necessary to address the need for sufficient fish populations to stock the lakes. A fish hatchery consisting of ten ponds was built on the forest property to supply various fishing locations in the state forest and other fishing locations around the state.²⁴ This hatchery served a dual purpose. Not only did the hatchery provide stock for fishing, it also had environmental benefits. State officials conducted

experiments in the hatchery to determine environmental effects of various organic fertilizers as well as to assess how well these fertilizers worked for increasing microorganism growth, which might help to increase the size and number of fish at the hatchery.²⁵ The information gleaned from these studies was applied to other hatcheries within the state to make them more successful.

In 1937, more preparation for the sportsmen and other visitors who would be coming to the forest in the spring and summer months was initiated. It was time for more detailed efforts. The lakes in Ferdinand State Forest were stocked with popular fish, trails through the woods were cleared and smoothed, and even a female turkey was brought in as a mate for a very large male turkey that resided in the forest.²⁶ It was hoped that the pair of turkeys would reproduce in order to boost the turkey population in the area for future hunting. However, the forest was not destined to be solely for the public's enjoyment. Later in the summer of 1937, several foresters from around the state came to Ferdinand to see the progress of the reforested land.²⁷ The forest now took on an educational purpose. It was decided that a tract of the forest's land would be set aside for demonstrations.²⁸ This demonstration area would be used to show others what could be done with forested lands for conservation purposes.

Before and After World War II

Very little was done with Ferdinand State Forest during the 1940s. Albert Kleber, a resident from the nearby St. Meinrad Archabbey, noticed that the 200 men that had once occupied the forest's camp had vacated the camp by 1940.²⁹ World War II probably drew forest employees away to fight for their country or to aid in the

war effort. State funding was not given to the forest; the money was better spent on materials for the U.S. troops. After the war, however, Ferdinand State Forest continued to expand. As men returned home from the war and families were started, areas to spend time with each other and to play with children were desperately needed. In 1950, a new blacktop road was built through the forest, replacing the former, more primitive dirt and gravel roads.³⁰ Public access was made much easier with better quality roads. The road was once again resurfaced in the fall of 1956 to maintain easy access and to encourage visitors to come to the forest.³¹

Timber Harvests in Ferdinand

Ferdinand State Forest continued to serve a variety of purposes over the years. Multiple timber harvests have occurred on the forest's property since its establishment. In 1943, it was noted that many trees were planted, but many were also sold. Some trees were sold for use as Christmas trees.³² Yet, despite tree sales from the state forest, conservation was an ever-present issue. This sales practice lasted into the 1950s, and once the trees were harvested, enough seedlings were planted to support subsequent sales and general regrowth of trees for the forest.³³ Maintaining appropriate levels of harvesting alongside of reforestation was necessary to perpetuate the forest's potential for future public and timber use. Some oppose timber harvests as they are in favor of conservation, but there have not been any noted protests within Ferdinand State Forest. These harvests are ongoing, with foresters surveying the types of trees present and approving tracts of land for timber harvest.³⁴ The Indiana Department of Natural

Resources Division of Forestry keeps a watchful eye on this continuous growth cycle so that overharvesting does not occur.

Misfortunes in the Forest

Tragedy struck several times in the forest's first 25 years of existence. A local man, Harold Fleck, 19, drowned while swimming in one of the lakes in Ferdinand State Forest in July of 1950.³⁵ No indication was given as to what made him drown, and no restrictions were implemented on the swimming areas of the forest. In May of 1954, a fire damaged the main service building in the forest. No casualties were reported, but various tools and furniture were damaged, and all paperwork and records housed inside were lost.³⁶ The loss of records could be one reason why there is limited documentation on Ferdinand State Forest. The only indication of the service building being rebuilt was in 1956. *The Ferdinand News* reported that one of the forest's service buildings, although it may not have been the building that burned down two years earlier, was rebuilt.³⁷ The building was completely renovated. Wood from the forest's timber lots was used to complete the renovation.

An Era of Growth

By this point in time, the earliest born children of the Baby Boom generation were entering their teen years. There was a significant need for a place where these teenagers could spend time with their friends. Ferdinand State Forest officials recognized this need and began to expand. The most notable of Ferdinand State Forest's developments was the news of the building of a swimming beach at one of the lakes on the forest's property. This news broke on October 2, 1959 in *The Ferdinand News*.³⁸ This project took quite a while to complete. In February of 1960,

it was speculated that the beach would be completed for the upcoming summer. In the summer of the same year, progress began on the beach project. The water level had to be lowered for the beach to be usable.³⁹ This would provide a convenient area for visitors to swim in the lake and relax on the shore. The new beach was commissioned by the forest officials and was completed by local construction companies in 1961.⁴⁰ The beach was then opened for public access and enjoyment. A diving board and boat rentals were added in the summer of 1962.⁴¹ This provided beach-goers with more to do as they spent summer days at the state forest. In 1964, swimming and lifeguarding lessons were offered at the forest.⁴² These lessons gave an increasing number of children more skills while they swam safely at the lake.

Another addition to the forest that gave the ever-expanding population a place to enjoy the outdoors was a new campground on Ferdinand State Forest grounds. Visitors to the forest for a small fee could stay at primitive camping sites on the property, which were constructed in the 1960s.⁴³ Along with the beach and campsites, there were four different lakes to explore, as well as five hiking trails. Also, the forest had numerous picnic areas and structures for visitors to enjoy with playgrounds and horseshoe pits nearby that were constructed by the early CCC camps as well as later by Ferdinand State Forest employees.⁴⁴ *The Ferdinand News* often reported large parties that took place within the forest. Family reunions, company outings, and groups like the American Legion had gatherings in the various meeting spaces throughout the state forest.⁴⁵ The meeting spaces within the forest were large enough to accommodate such groups with ease and there was

plenty for guests to do while there. The men from the CCC camp had constructed picnic shelters for the forest, and contractors constructed some later. A mountain biking trail runs through the forest as well, but it was added later.

A Destination for Sportsmen

Hunting is allowed in the forest for whitetail deer, raccoons, squirrels, fox, and turkey during the appropriate seasons. According to *The Ferdinand News*, deer hunting within the forest's limits was first allowed during the hunting season in the fall of 1958.⁴⁶ Prior to the legalization of hunting within the forest's boundaries, hunting simulations of smaller game were allowed. In the late 1930s, coon dog trials were held in the forest.⁴⁷ These trials were wildly popular and extremely successful. The trials were held in the forest several times as an opportunity for fun and sportsmanship.⁴⁸ For water recreation, fishing and boating were allowed on the lakes, but only smaller boats and motors were allowed. Visitors could also go swimming in the lakes.⁴⁹ There is no indication of fishing or boating ever being prohibited in Ferdinand State Forest.

Greene-Sullivan State Forest

Early History

Greene-Sullivan State Forest is located in Dugger, Indiana and encompasses land in both Greene and Sullivan counties in southwestern Indiana. The state forest covers approximately 9,000 acres of land.⁵⁰ Historically, the land that would eventually become Greene and Sullivan counties was originally settled by members of the Delaware and Shawnee tribes.⁵¹ These Native Americans were

the primary inhabitants of this region until the advent of European settlers. In the early eighteenth century, the French began settling this territory. The French acquired the land as a result of treaties with the Native Americans.⁵² The primary occupants of this region continued to change due to the impact of conflicts such as the French and Indian War and the American Revolutionary War. Consequently, by the mid-1800s, the land had transitioned from French to British to American ownership.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, the settlers established both Greene and Sullivan Counties. Around this time, it was discovered that both Greene and Sullivan Counties had abundant stores of coal that could be mined, and in 1884, it was estimated that the value of the coal that could be mined from Greene County amounted to approximately \$338,688,000.⁵³ This important energy discovery provided Indiana with power. Coal was a significant energy source for factories, homes, and transportation, so finding a sizable store of coal was very valuable.

Building Greene-Sullivan State Forest

The beginning of Greene-Sullivan State Forest was rooted closely in the coal mining industry. The forest began with a smaller area of land, 1,600 acres, donated to the state by the Central Indiana Coal Company.⁵⁴ This initial donation occurred in 1935. The land had been used for strip mining, which involves mining coal from the surface of the soil above deposits of minerals. It was planned that small lakes and reforested areas would be made in the former mining lands. In order to achieve this, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp moved into the area.⁵⁵ There is no mention of the specific CCC camp that helped to develop the forest. The CCC

workers were responsible for building multiple lakes and dams in the newly formed forest, although it is unknown how many were planned to be built. Additionally, they were working to plant the trees in the areas that had been strip-mined. This may have been the camp of approximately 200 men who moved into nearby Linton.⁵⁶ The Central Indiana Coal Company allowed the Linton CCC camp to use their land, especially if they would help reforest it later.⁵⁷ This may be the land that the Central Indiana Coal Company gave to the state, or it may have been another piece of land that they owned.

Late in 1935, many coal companies were donating their bare, already-mined land to the state because they had no further use of the land. These companies gave approximately 15,000 acres to the Indiana Department of Conservation.⁵⁸ Three hundred and fifty acres were allotted to Greene-Sullivan State Forest. As part of the agreement for coal companies donating their land, the companies could still mine these strips of land if there was any remaining coal.⁵⁹ The acreage given to Greene-Sullivan State Forest could be turned into lakes or could be reforested. No crops could be planted in this land due to the lack of minerals in the soil after mining.

In 1937, a tree-planting program was implemented in the forest by state officials working in the forest.⁶⁰ This program would increase the diversity of the number of tree species found in the forest. Furthermore, by replanting the used land instead of letting the bare land sit empty, the coal companies were making the land more enjoyable for locals, preventing more soil erosion, protecting local wildlife and plants, and providing timber for future sales. State foresters monitored the success

of the forest. In 1940, plans were generated for a fire tower and new spillways.⁶¹ The spillways were constructed so that the lakes made in the former strip mines would not flood and overflow. The fire tower was completed in the following year, and men from the CCC camp located in the forest aided in watching for forest fires.⁶² At this point, the New Deal had ended, and the men of the CCC camp were leaving as the United States moved towards war.

Expansion through Legislation

A bill was introduced to Indiana's House of Representatives on January 21, 1941 that aided in the expansion of Greene-Sullivan State Forest. House Bill 136 required strip mines to replant the land that had been mined, or fines would be enforced.⁶³ This bill represented a move towards conservation of the land, a positive move for the state forests, but it carried stiff penalties for non-compliance. While there were no records of specific coal companies that protested this bill, it can be assumed that the bill was not welcomed by the strip mining industry. In March of 1941, negotiations over coal miners' contracts were in the works and the deadline was fast approaching.⁶⁴ The coal industry union leaders were asking for contracts to include salary raises; without including these terms, a strike was imminent.⁶⁵ The contracts were not agreed upon when the deadline was reached, so coal miners went on strike and coal production came to a halt.⁶⁶ The strike ended in the summer of 1941 with the miners receiving raises and paid vacation time.⁶⁷ The Indiana Coal Mining Act was put into law a short time later in the summer of 1941. It decreed that mining companies must replant land they had used with useful trees and other plants, and failure to comply could result in fines from \$1,000 to \$5,000.⁶⁸ Indiana's

coal companies opposed this law because of the additional expenditures they would need to make in order to not be fined. Having just raised employees' salaries, it would not be favorable to be required to spend more money to replace trees. The Division of Forestry of the State Department of Conservation appointed forester Carl M. Carpenter in August of 1941 as supervisor of Greene-Sullivan State Forest and as a liaison to monitor local coal companies' compliance with the new law.⁶⁹

World War II and Beyond

During World War II, very little was built in Greene-Sullivan State Forest. In 1943, service buildings were erected, roads were paved, and more trees were planted.⁷⁰ Fishing in the forest's many lakes gained popularity because it was an activity anyone could participate in during World War II. Additionally, the forest was an ideal place for recreation for those who lived nearby because it was easily accessible when gas was rationed. Land in the forest was leased in 1944 and 1945 for more strip mining.⁷¹ Like the land that had been sold to the state that had already been mined, this land would also be replanted with trees after mining was completed. Very little information about activities in the forest was reported during World War II because the state's efforts were focused on the war, not on improving local forests.

In the years following World War II, the state was once again able to focus on developing recreational facilities in the forest. There was a growing need for such places because families were growing after the war ended. Consequently, picnic areas were added to the state forest in 1948.⁷² The new picnic area provided a place for people to gather and socialize. In 1949, more former strip-mining land was

donated to the forest by the Central Indiana Coal Company and the Maumee Collieries Company.⁷³ Turning strip-mined land into land for the state forest insured that the reforested areas would be useful for generations later.

Several years later in 1952, a small forest fire occurred in Greene-Sullivan State Forest during an outbreak of forest fires throughout the state.⁷⁴ Firewatchers in the fire tower saw this fire and alerted local firefighters so that the fire could be doused quickly. The fire was put out quickly and very little land was damaged, so the damage did not contribute to the one million dollars' worth of damaged forests throughout the state.

Predicaments in the Forest

As Greene-Sullivan State Forest grew and gained popularity, it was noted that there was water pollution in several of the lakes from old mines that were leaking. These leaks originated from mine veins that were not completely sealed, and they were adding sulphurous acids to the water.⁷⁵ The pollution issue needed to be resolved for public and environmental safety. Furthermore, the acidity affecting the water additionally affected the soil, and in particular the soil's pH level. This, in turn, caused reforestation efforts to not go smoothly, as trees were not growing well in the poor quality of soil. Also, the soil was eroding quickly as a result of earlier strip mining and the lack of vegetation. The mine veins were sealed to prevent further harm to the water, land, and wildlife. Consequently, the forest's overall value to the public in the future would be from the fishing industry and as a wildlife refuge, but not from the lumber industry.⁷⁶ Unlike other state forests,

Greene-Sullivan would not produce the same quantity of trees for timber harvests that some of the other larger forests would produce.

Greene-Sullivan Expands

In 1958, it was decided that Greene-Sullivan State Forest was to be the first multiple-use forest in the area.⁷⁷ This meant that the forest would be used for both conservation and recreation. Officials from the Indiana Conservation Commission and Department were set to visit Greene-Sullivan State Forest to inspect the facilities.⁷⁸ Many additions to the forest were planned to attract more visitors such as picnic shelters, camping facilities, and hiking trails. These additions were greatly needed, as growing families needed more areas to spend time together.

In the 1980s, the forest had more than 150 lakes for fishing and boating as well as trails and areas for horseback riding. Strip mining still occurred in nearby Greene-Sullivan forest.⁷⁹ Curiously, this was an attraction for some visitors to the forest who could watch and photograph the large mining machinery as it worked to extract coal. The former strip mines are still being replanted for the same reasons that the land was replanted shortly after the forest's establishment.⁸⁰ Reforestation was still needed to return the land to a more natural state. Also, another attraction arose in the mid-1980s. It was discovered that fossils could be found in some creek and lake areas of the forest, giving visitors another activity to do within the forest.⁸¹ These fossils are primarily those of marine creatures and plants. Fossils in this area are from the Paleozoic Era, when much of Indiana was covered with a shallow sea. Other fossilized plant matter from the same sea and rivers that led into the sea was compressed into carbon and formed the rich coal beds in the region.⁸²

Trees are occasionally harvested from the forest for use as lumber. Lumber from a harvest in 2006 was used to rebuild one of Indiana's historic covered bridges from Bridgeton that was originally built in 1868.⁸³ An arsonist had destroyed the bridge, so it was decided to rebuild the bridge with locally sourced lumber.

Greene-Sullivan State Forest Today

In 2013, new cabins were built at one of the campgrounds on the forest's property and were made available to the public for rental.⁸⁴ Greene-Sullivan State Forest continues to add and maintain features to attract more visitors. Currently, the forest features primitive campsites, cabins, horseback riding trails, picnic facilities, hunting areas, and many lakes for fishing.⁸⁵

Comparison

Although Ferdinand and Greene-Sullivan State Forests are not close in proximity to one another, they have many similarities in their respective histories. Ferdinand State Forest's land came from generous donors who lived in Ferdinand, and Greene-Sullivan State Forest's land was donated by various coal companies. Once both forests had been established, Civilian Conservation Corps men moved in to help build roads and erect buildings for visitors to the forests to use.

World War II affected Ferdinand State Forest and Greene-Sullivan State Forest in the same ways. Once the war started, the CCC camps moved out, and much of the development in the forests halted as the focus shifted to the efforts to support the war. When the war was over, both forests began to add more recreational facilities and roadways within the forest to accommodate families growing with the Baby Boom. The management in each forest recognized that

families with increasing numbers would need places to spend time together and have fun. Persons appointed by the Indiana State Department of Natural Resources run both forests.

The communities surrounding both of these forests are quite different. Ferdinand was settled by German immigrants who built the town around the monastery. Many of the town events involved the church, so Ferdinand State Forest was another place where church events could be held or townspeople could meet. Various settlers established Greene and Sullivan counties. Greene-Sullivan State Forest was mostly a place for the community to gather for non-specific events.

Both forests have endured little controversy throughout their respective histories. Logging that occurs in Ferdinand State Forest might be displeasing to some, but there have been no recorded instances of disapproval from the public. The only controversy that occurred in Greene-Sullivan State Forest was in regards to the law enacted in 1941, which decreed that bare, strip-mined lands had to be replanted. Coal companies were most likely upset with this law because it forced them to spend additional money to reforest their land when they were already increasing employees' wages after a national strike. The state government supported the law, while costly for coal companies, because the law helped to preserve the natural beauty of the state of Indiana.

Conclusions

Ferdinand State Forest continues to be a popular destination for fishing, hunting, and boating. It offers activities for families and friends and provides ample space for gatherings and celebrations. Additionally, the forest maintains a program

for timber sales and reforestation. Most importantly, Ferdinand State Forest remains a place of conservation where nature can flourish. Greene-Sullivan State Forest exists as a remarkable example of land transformation. What were once areas that were used for industry was converted to a region that has provided many benefits to the citizens and state of Indiana. This state forest has outstanding recreational value and it exemplifies the importance of land and wildlife conservation. Overall, both forests are excellent places for Indiana citizens and other visitors to enjoy recreational activities and to relax in the beauty of Indiana's outdoors.

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⁴ "Fish and Game Club Meets Here," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Nov. 24, 1933.

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¹⁴ "Interesting Park Project Meeting," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Feb. 23, 1934.

¹⁵ "The Ferdinand State Forest: Much More Work to be Done on 2nd Largest in State," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Apr. 10, 1936.

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¹⁸ "Ferdinand State Park Activities of the Past Week," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Apr. 5, 1935.

¹⁹ "Fire Destroys One of Local Barracks: CCC Building Reduced to Ashes in Less Than Two Hours," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Feb. 14, 1936.

²⁰ W.P. Cosgrove and Richard E. Strahlem, *Yearbook of the State of Indiana for the Year 1936* (Fort Wayne, IN: Fort Wayne Printing Company, 1936), 628.

²¹ "Forest Survey Started in Co.," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Jan. 25, 1935.

²² "Ferdinand State Park Activities of the Past Week," *The Ferdinand News* (Ferdinand, IN), Apr. 5, 1935.

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